

Table 2.7 Measures of mortality related to childbirth and early life.

Measure	Deaths (numerator)	Population at risk (denominator)	Notes
Maternal mortality rate	Deaths among women from causes related to childbirth in 1 year (usually only deaths up to 42 days after birth, sometimes deaths up to 1 year after birth are included)	Number of live births in the same year	Strictly speaking, the denominator should be <i>all</i> pregnant women, but this information is not recorded directly.
Stillbirth or fetal death rate	Number of stillbirths in 1 year, where a still birth is usually a fetal death after 28 weeks gestation, although other time points may also be used (e.g. 20 weeks)	Live births plus fetal deaths in the same year	Sometimes calculated as the ratio of the number of fetal deaths to the number of live births (excluding fetal deaths). This is often called the <i>fetal death ratio</i> .
Perinatal mortality rate	Fetal deaths and deaths up to 7 days of life	Live births plus fetal deaths in the same year	May be calculated as the ratio of the number of deaths to the number of live births (excluding fetal deaths) and called the <i>perinatal death ratio</i> . May also include deaths up to 28 days of life.
Neonatal mortality rate	Deaths in children aged less than 28 days	Number of live births in the same year	Only live births are included in the denominator because only babies born alive are at risk of dying before the age of 28 days.
Post-neonatal mortality rate	Deaths in children aged from 28 days to 1 year	Number of live births in the same year	Strictly speaking, the denominator should exclude children who die before age 28 days because they are no longer at risk.
Infant mortality rate	Deaths in children up to 1 year of age	Number of live births in the same year	Probably the most widely used single indicator of the overall health of a community.
Child death rate	Deaths in children aged 1–4 years	Number of children aged 1–4 years in the population	An example of an age-specific mortality rate.